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A reading community

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Winter is a good time to curl up with a good book, especially with a lot of snow outside, and the Duxbury Middle/High School Library is celebrating reading this month in a new, fun way. In just over a month, readers across the nation will celebrate Read Across America Day, which is held annually on March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday. Read Across America Day invites community members to read to elementary school students. In the past, Superintendent of Schools Ben Tantillo, selectmen, and other community members have read to students at Alden and Chandler Schools. "Having community members come in to read to our six through 12 students didn't really make sense," said Annie Potash, library technician at the DMS/DHS library. The librarians at the schools brainstormed about doing something fun for grades six through 12 that would highlight the importance of reading while also giving back to the community. Finally, they decided to have a book drive. The book drive will be held from Feb. 23 through March 6. Students will be collecting gently used books to donate to the Ocean Village bookstore in Marshfield. The bookstore is a fundraising arm of Road to Responsibility, an organization that provides day programs, work programs and housing to adults with disabilities to help them live as independent a life as possible.

Once the ball got rolling on the book drive, Potash said school community members reached out and expressed interest in being part of it as well. Students who are part of the Pilgrim Area Collaborative program, which serves students with special learning needs at the schools, has offered the use of its vans to deliver the books and will also be the students to deliver the donated books to the bookstore.

The middle school student council will be doing publicity for the event and Best Buddies, which pairs students with special needs with honor society students, will also be involved. "It's fun when you have an idea like this and the more people you talk to, the more people who want to be involved," Potash said. "My heart was just full." While the book drive will be held at the school only for right now, Potash said she hopes to get in touch with local businesses to put out donation bins for the books around town. In conjunction with the book drive, students will also participate in a 20-minute silent reading during their advisory period, which is a period in which they receive information about scheduling and classes from their advisors.

"The principals were on board, which we are very grateful for," Potash said. "It will be nice for everyone to take a few minutes to read something that is not assigned."

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